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42- Lompoc

Mission La Purisima Concepcion,  
Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, California

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of California #3

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Henry F. Withey, District Officer  
407 South Western Avenue  
Los Angeles, California

MISSION LA PURISIMA CONCEPCION,  
Lompoc, Santa Barbara County,  
California.

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Owner: State of California

Date of erection: Buildings on the original site between 1783 and 1812. Structures on the new and present site built 1812 to possibly 1830. (This report has to do only with the buildings on the present site.)

Architect:

Builder: Indian labor under direction of the Franciscan Padres.

Present condition: The Residence Building during the last twenty months has been entirely rebuilt with new materials, excepting that the foundation, a few exterior and interior walls, and ten of the brick piers of the East Corridor were retained. The church is being rebuilt at this time, and included in its construction is a small portion of the former church walls.

The soap vats built of burned brick remain in fair condition. An original fountain, two brick laundries and a brick cistern remained in varying conditions of ruin, which have been repaired and restored to working order.

Of such other buildings as once composed the Mission group, only buried foundations remain, of which about ten have been recently uncovered. These include, in the Mission group, three utility buildings, a blacksmith shop, palisade building, three neophyte buildings, a warehouse building and an infirmary. Also included in the mission water system are two circular reservoirs, a vaulted reservoir or spring house, two earth dams, three masonry distribution boxes, tile and open ditch water supply lines.

Number of stories: Residence Building, one story with a loft space over certain sections.

Materials of construction: Foundation of the larger buildings were of sandstone, cut and squared for use. Walls were of adobe brick, laid in adobe mortar, plastered with lime or adobe mortar and white-washed. Roof of the Manastery was tile covered, as probably were roofs of all other structures. Flooring was of 10" x 10" x 2" brick tile, or adobe brick, or redwood planks.

New construction is of the same materials as original buildings, except that concrete has been used for such new foundations as has been necessary, and a system of reinforced concrete columns and bond beams have been built into the adobe walls of the Residence Building, to save the structure from damage or destruction by any earthquake of the future.

Other existing records: Fr. Zephyrin Engelhardt, O.F.M., "Missions and Missionaries of California" and Mission La Concepcion Purisima." - Herbert Howe Bancroft, "History of California" Vols. 1 to 5, 1895. - Rexford Newcomb, "The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California", 1925. - George Wharton James, "In and Out of the old Missions." - Helen Hunt Jackson, "Glimpses of California and the Missions." - "History of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties" published by Thompson and West, 1883. "Pen Pictures of the Garden of the World" by Ida Addis Storke.

MISSION LA PURISIMA CONCEPCION.

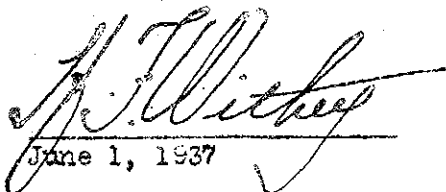
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Also , Los Angeles Times, an illustrated article by Lynn J. Rogers,  
Feb. 3, 1935.

Additional data: Founded in 1787, this was the eleventh in the chain of twenty-one California missions. The site of the original mission was slightly south of the present city of Lompoc. A severe earthquake in December of 1812 destroyed all of the buildings, and for several reasons a change of location was decided upon. A new site was selected four miles distant in the Valley of Water Cresses (La Canada de los Berros). Beginning with 1813 new and more elaborate structures were erected during the next few years. An extensive water system was a special feature of the Mission. At the original site there are remains of a few walls only, above the grade.

Reconstruction of the buildings at the present time is being performed with the members of the Civilian Conservation Corp of the La Purisima Camp, under the direction of the National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, cooperating with the State of California, Division of Parks, Department of Natural Resources.

  
June 1, 1937